

## News Release

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Media Contact:**  
Cody Craynor  
Public Information Officer  
801-560-4649

### **West Nile Virus Detected in Five More Counties**

*New detection brings the total to 10 counties*

(Salt Lake City, UT) – Health officials are reporting today that West Nile virus has been detected in mosquitoes in five more counties in Utah. These counties include Davis, Weber, Juab, Millard, and Uintah. Already this year, West Nile virus has been detected in Duchesne, Emery, Salt Lake, Utah, and Washington counties. This brings the state total to ten counties with detection. This is the largest weekly gain in geographic spread for all previous WNV seasons in Utah.

West Nile virus has been detected in mosquitoes, wild birds, sentinel chickens, and one horse as well as one human. The human infection was reported to the UDOH on July 18, 2006. It occurred in a Utah County resident with West Nile fever.

Traditionally, mosquito populations peak in July, which means that people run the highest risk of becoming infected at this time. This year, with the elevated mosquito populations, this risk is believed to be much greater than normal.

Exposure to WNV can occur anywhere, including at home. Mosquitoes often breed in backyards, wherever there is standing water. Preventing mosquito bites is the way to avoid getting WNV. Utahns can protect themselves from mosquito bites by:

- Using mosquito repellents that contain DEET when outdoors from dusk to dawn.
- Wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants while outdoors.
- Getting rid of standing water around your house to reduce the number of mosquitoes (old tires, buckets, wading pools, etc.).

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*The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.*